

Atari News!



October, 1991 Vol 1 No 3

IB To Appear at OCC Show

Robb Albright

If you happen to be strolling by the Oregon Convention Center on the 8th or 9th of October and decide to go in to see the show that is taking place inside, you will be greeted by a friendly and familiar face. That's right, IB Computers will be attending the 1991 Computer and Office Systems Show at the new 'Twin Spires' building. They will be demonstrating all kinds of nifty equipment, for everyone from restaurateurs to big-time publishers. This is the Atari-Only dealership's first local show in over five years, so it seems Atari is starting to see more well deserved main-stream attention. In fact, just three months ago, IB was involved in a show in Eugene where three TT systems were sold, and area interest and knowledge in the available business systems were greatly enhanced.

Two of the items likely to draw attention to the booth are a full fledged typesetting system and automated restaurant setup

that takes care of everything from point-of-sale ordering to tallying the days receipts and profit. The typesetter is TT based, and includes a Hell Systems Bridgett with 5000 dpi output, and an Epson colour scanner, the fastest graphics scanner available. This is a full scale, print shop type system, with output that will amaze you. As for the restaurant system, it is manufactured by an outfit called Viewtouch. this amazing product incorporates touch-screen technology on the front end and includes output for cook's instruction, server's instruction, and full accounting capabilities. IB will also be showing the terrific TT/030 and desktop publishing products.

So make a point to stop by the Oregon Convention Center on the 8th and 9th of October, and be sure to tell your friends, and your boss, about it.

October Calendar

7th General Meeting
Bring Your Computer!!
21st Board Meeting
Deadline for NL Articles

This month's Meeting
18th and NW Everett-The Big Room
Demonstrations:

Games

Outzone

Gods

Applications

MultiGem-Multitasking on
your Atari

DTPaint-D A for use in
desktop publishing to edit or
create your graphics

New Club Disks

AIM Disk of the month

Gemini Desktop Replacement
Card Games

In This Issue!

CodeHead Announces New Stuff!!

IB at Local Office Show

Editor's Policy

All articles for PAC's newsletter are to be submitted through ACE of America BBS ((503)285-4417(PAC Board Talk (PBT) SIG)) or in person (mainly to the Newsletter Editor). All submissions shall be considered for publication by the Editor. Decision to publish rests with the Editor. All submissions shall be subject to editing where necessary by the Editor.

Please submit all files in ASCII (ST), ATASCII (8-Bit) or most preferrably for 8-Bit, Atari Writer format (It's easier for me to port AtariWriter format files than straight ATASCII.). If articles are submitted that wer'e created on an 8-Bit Atari, please submit them through ACE of America BBS or through the club President, David Hunt.

Please present all newsletter submissions by the 3rd Monday every month. This Monday happens to be the night for the board of directors meeting. I, the Editor, should be there.

Personal ads for club members will be published for free. The Portland Atari Club assumes no liability for articles contained here in. Responsibility shall be assumed by the author.

This newsletter is put together by Robb Albright, PAC Newsletter Editor with articles submitted by PAC Members. It is edited on a 520ST upgraded to 1 meg using PageStream 1.8 and printed on an Atari Laser Printer at IB Computers.

Board Members

President	David Hunt
Vice President	Ben Smith
Treasurer	Mel Anderson
Membership Sec.	Randall Leong
ST Disk Librarian	Teri Williams
ST Program Director	Paul Karczag
8-Bit Disk Librarian	
8-Bit Program Dir.	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Dutch Leonard
BBS Director	Chris Healy
Advisor	Paul Gittins
Newsletter Editor	Robb Albright

HELP LINES

8-Bit General

David Hunt (503)286-6276

ST General

Ben Smith (503)274-7017 x5225

8-Bit BBS & TeleCom

David Hunt (# Above)

ST BBS & TeleCom

Chris Healy (503)775-9073

ST Desk Manager Bootup Prg.

Ben Smith (# Above)

PageStream DTP

Robb Albright (503)786-8215

Club Info - Membership

(503)274-7017 x5225

If you would like to offer your services as a help line, please contact Robb Albright at the above listed number

BBS

ACE of America 285-4417

Puddle city 289-9429

The Leader of the PAC

David Hunt

Another month has come and gone, and I am told by the Newsletter Editor that it is once again time to have my article ready, so here goes, ready or not...

Elections are once again just around the corner, and the following people who are now officers will be running again:

David Hunt.....President
Ben Smith.....Vice President
Mel Anderson.....Treasurer
Teri Williams.....ST Librarian
Mel Anderson.....8-Bit Librarian
Chris Healy.....BBS Director
Robb Albright.....Newsletter Editor

[Open].....Secretary
[Open].....8-Bit Program Dir.
[Open].....ST Program Dir.
[Open].....Sgt. At Arms
[Open].....Special Projects

Needless to say, we are in desperate need to fill the positions being vacated by the current officers, some of whom have been on the board for many years.

We are all striving towards making this club a better, more meaningful experience for everyone, so stand up and be counted, run for an office, PAC NEEDS YOU! Nominations will be accepted through the end of the November meeting. Elections will be at the December Meeting which will also be a huge Swap Meet. Instead of a Christmas Party this year, we will be having a New Officer Installation Party in January, at which the club will provide the refreshments.

Also, at the November meeting we will auctioning off one of the club's 19 inch color TV's, these TV's have very little use, and the bidding will start at only \$75.00, so if you're interested, make sure you bring some money to the November meeting.

In an attempt to try to bring you better meetings, you are all encouraged to bring your machines, and share with everyone your favorite software, or if you're having problems with something, bring it and get help!

So far we have had no winners in the new PAC Lottery, so this month, the pot is up to \$25.00. You must be present to win.

From the Editor's Desktop

Robb Albright

Welcome everyone! I'm back and I'm having fun! I've told you what you can do to contribute to the newsletter, and I've told you how I do this, so now comes the fun part. I get to do what you should do in an editorial column. I get to tell you what I think.

First of all, as you probably know from reading the column next to me, elections are coming up. Now this club is a great group, but we do need more participation. The way I see it, this club has about fifty to sixty members right now, but only twenty percent or so contribute more than their yearly dues. Come on guys and gals, this is the perfect time to put forth your part. If you don't like the way someone is carrying out their position or you just have some ideas on how to do it better, run for an office. Don't worry if it's occupied or not. Heck, even run for my position if that's what you want to do! Remember, that is the point of an election, to **decide** who is best for the job.

Second, as we all know, Atari is not the best known computer system around, but in my opinion, and hopefully yours too, it is the BEST. So in the theme of participation that this venture seems to be leaning towards, tell people about Atari, and about us. You can pick up a new 1040STe for about \$399, add a mono monitor and basic software, and you're still under \$750 or so. Not to mention used equipment, which can be much less. Since Atari does not have much in the way of mainstream advertising these days, we need to help people find out about this great deal.

So if you hear someone you know, or even just work with, saying something like 'ya know Bill, I'm thinking of getting one of those personal computer things', rush right in and ask him if he's checked out Atari, which is not only the best value for the price, it's the easiest to use, has cheaper software, and the best user groups around.

That's about it for my ramblings as of now, but you can look forward to next month, as there is plenty more where this came from. But don't forget, me compatriots, bring your computer to this next meeting, along with whatever your favourite software is at the moment, and share the experience with the rest of us. And, once again nominations for offices are open, so let's all try to have a choice for each and every position.

Happy computing, and I'll see you all at the next meeting.

TidBits

From Z-Net

GLENDALÉ SHOW HAS 3,500, NEW PRODUCTS PREMIER The Southern California Atari Computer Faire version 5.0 brought 3,297 visitors through the front doors and more through the back to make it the biggest Atari event in America in the last several years. Over 50 vendors and developers participated in one way or another, breaking all prior US records for variety and support. Lots of new products were premiered Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, and sales were "phenomenal". A comprehensive report by John Nagy follows the Newswire.

GE SERVICE TO HANDLE EXPANDED ATARI WARRANTY WORLDWIDE Atari is engaged in negotiations to make General Electric Service Centers the worldwide walk-in and depot repair centers for Atari computers. Preparation included a redesign of the TT motherboard to meet GE's specs. The deal should become effective in January '92, and Atari's warranty period will be expanded from the current 90 days to 6 months or a year. Details are still being finalized.

FSM GDOS SHIPS! The waiting is over for Atari's Font Scaling Manager, FSM GDOS. The first commercial copies were sold last weekend at the Glendale Atari show, as part of WordFlair II. A license fee of \$35 was charged at the show for the new system, which was designed by QMS-Imagen for use with their Ultrascript fonts and systems. Stand-alone commercial copies will be available within weeks, as only the packing box itself is not ready for shipping.

TT030 PASSES FCC TYPE B IN TWO VERSIONS The Atari TT030 computer has at last passed the FCC certification process as a Type B consumer device, allowing unfettered sale and distribution to approved dealers. New FCC guru at Atari's Dallas research center is IBM and TI alumni Robert Joplin, who not only designed the new TT motherboard to pass the FCC, but then proceeded to alter the existing TT design to be able to pass as well.

TT SHIPPING WITH 1.44 MEG FLOPPY NOW, MEGA NEXT The first boatload of new equipment from the plants in Taiwan is now in Sunnyvale, and the papers have arrived announcing another load coming. There should be ample stock for the upcoming months, and the new TT computers arriving now include a 1.44 megabyte floppy disk rather than the 720K unit shipped to date. Upgrades will be available "soon" for existing TT and Mega STe owners at "under \$100" according to Atari's Bill Rehbock.

ANOTHER NEW TOS AIDS UPGRADES Atari has revised TOS again, this time to facilitate upgraded systems. The older versions do not check to see what kind of machine they are in, and so older (non-"E") computers have a hard time being adapted. The new code enables TOS upgrades for almost any Atari, although a new small circuit board is required to add the new 2.05 to older ST's. TOS 2.05 and a similarly updated version for the TT (3.x) should become available as standard replacement parts within 90 days. No other operational difference is integrated in this TOS change, so there is no reason to upgrade a Mega STe or TT with the new TOS.

ST BOOK NOW TYPE B, TO SEE IMMEDIATE PRODUCTION According to Bill Rehbock in his address to Glendale show visitors, the Atari ST BOOK and Stylus Pad computers have been tested and already pass FCC Type B standards, and only the paperwork remains in the registration process. The ST Book will see production of about 1,000 units a month until after Christmas, when the hard-to-get Epson-made LCD screens will go off of the rationing program. The 1-meg, 40 megabyte HD version will retail at about \$1800, while the 4-meg 80 mbHD will be about \$500 more. Memory will not be upgradable.

STYLUS TO GET JUMP ON PAD MARKET In final production tooling now, the \$1200 Atari Stylus (pad-like keyboardless computer) should be a leader at COMDEX in October due to the thousands of ST applications that are immediately compatible with it. The handwriting recognition system makes any normal ST program able to operate from the pen environment, while other brands of Pad computers are waiting for custom made applications before they will be useful.

CDAR505 CD ROM ARRIVING "On the water" as you read this, the CDAR 505 CD ROM player from Atari will be available for sale by COMDEX in mid October. The first batch of production units were too late to be shown at Glendale last week, but will be in hand by the end of September. Atari's Softsource CD will be pressed in the next 45 days, and should retail at about \$29. A number of other companies are ready to produce CD titles for the ST as soon as the players are available. Look for details of the Z*NET CD featuring hundreds of MEGS of files, coming soon.

Codeheads Announce New Products!

Press Release

September 12, 1991 Automatic vectoring has arrived! CodeHead Software is releasing two powerful new high-end graphics and image manipulation packages for Atari computers -- Avant Vector and Repro Studio! We're proud to bring these excellent state of the art products to North America. At CodeHead Software we're quite selective about the software we use personally. Not very many programs get a big "WOW!" out of us. But to say that we found Avant Vector and Repro Studio impressive is a major understatement ... in fact, they blew us away!

Avant Vector is an object-oriented graphics program, with sophisticated automatic tracing abilities which allow the conversion of bit-image graphics (such as IMG files or Degas drawings) to vector graphics consisting of lines, curves, and filled shapes. Vector graphics have several big advantages over bit-image graphics; the most important is that once an image has been converted to a mathematical vector description, it can be scaled up or down to any size without losing detail or looking "blocky". Bit-image graphics can be imported into Avant Vector in many formats, including IMG, TIFF, IFF, and Degas (both compressed and uncompressed), and also vector graphics in the CVG (Calamus), GEM (GEM 3 metafile), and EPS (Encapsulated Postscript) formats. You can save vector graphics in CVG, GEM, or EPS formats (in Avant Plot) for use in desktop publishing applications. New drawings can also be created from scratch with Avant Vector, and up to seven graphics windows can be opened at once with cut- and-paste and merge functions. The graphics created by Avant Vector can be imported into most popular Atari DTP programs, and can also be printed directly from within Avant Vector itself, with support for the Atari Laser, NEC 24-pin, and Epson 9-pin printers. In a recent review of seven auto-tracing programs for the Mac, PC, and Atari ST/TT in a European magazine, Avant Vector was rated the best of the bunch! The reviewer gave Avant Vector high marks for its totally unique "manual tracing" mode, which snaps curves and points along a bit image AS YOU DRAW THEM! The most amazing thing about Avant Vector is its smooth, almost transparent interface and extremely simple, consistent operation. You can learn everything you need to get around in minutes, and be creating extraordinary graphics;

in no time at all! There are two versions of Avant Vector. The high-end version, Avant Plot, contains extensive plotter support for serious professional applications, and EPS file import/export features. Both Avant Vector and Avant Plot are available immediately.

Repro Studio is a next-generation graphics program with a dazzling array of professional features. Available with or without a hand-held scanner (256 gray level), Repro Studio is the first ST graphics program to let you create and edit images with true grey tones, as well as standard monochrome or color images in many different formats. In Repro Studio the dots that make up your image can be set to a grey level instead of being simply on (black) or off (white). If you have a standard ST monochrome monitor, grey scales won't be shown on screen but rather are displayed as fill patterns. But you can edit them and manipulate them with Repro Studio for use with DTP applications and in professional printing situations. In addition to its grey level capabilities, Repro Studio has an enormous number of powerful tools for working with bit-image graphics, including flexible cut-and-paste functions, many shape and fill options, bezier curves, lasso and masking functions, pixel prioritizing, raster "screens" for printing purposes, anti-aliasing and dithering, the ability to combine pictures in many ways, the ability to read and use GDOS, Calamus, and Adobe Postscript fonts, and much more. Repro Studio is able to load many different types of graphics files, including IMG, TIFF, Degas, Art Director, and Neochrome formats. After editing, touching up, or scanning, images can be saved in any of the above formats, or as Postscript files. Repro Studio comes with or without a 256 gray scale scanner. It is expected to be available by the end of the year, and like its companion, Avant Vector, will work with all ST, STe, and TT computers.

Avant Vector	\$ 495	Avant Plot	\$ 1195
Repro Studio ...	\$ 195	Vector ...	\$ 445 (a savings of \$50.00)
Repro Studio w/scanner ..	\$ 895	Avant Plot	\$ 1095 (a savings of \$100.00)
Special Intro Prices!!!			
If you place your order before December 31, 1991, you can purchase Avant Vector or Avant Plot for the following prices:			
Avant			

Pres Column Cont.

This month we will also be beginning a new competition at the monthly meetings, the game will be Shadows of Doom, donated by Shadow Software. There will be a \$5.00 entry fee (Refundable on a purchase of the game) and there will be a cash prize for the highest score at the meetings. 50% of all funds received will be used for prizes!!! Bring your favorite 8-Bit joystick, and join in the fun! Support your club, have great fun and win \$\$\$!

Dollars & Sense

Income

8-Bit Disk Sales	\$35.00
ST Disk Sales	6.00
Swap Meet Table	<u>10.00</u>
	\$51.00

Expenses

Newsletter	\$47.40
Aim	22.00
Supplies	16.00
Rent	60.00
Advertising	9.80
Misc	<u>14.70</u>
	169.90

Accounts

Chequing	\$84.20
Savings	474.08

Upcoming Events

October 12-13
WAACE AtariFest '91, Sheraton Reston Hotel,
Washington D.C./Virginia,
contact J.D.BARNES, 7710 Chatham Road,
Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

October 21-25
Fall COMDEX Las Vegas Nevada

November 23-24
Chicago Atari Computer Show BY ATARI.
Contact Larry Grauzas, P.O. Box
8788, Waukegan, IL 60079-8788, phone 708-
566-0671. Administred by the
Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts
(LCACE).

Hearye! Hearye!

Elections for Officers
Will be Held at the
December General
Meeting

Nominations will be
Open at the October
General Meeting

Ballots for Members
will be enclosed in
Next Month's
Newsletter

Come See the

Mega 5Te

This Meeting!

PAC Shopper

BRITISH MAGS

All those interested in purchasing the best Atari glossy magazines around, ST User, ST Format, and ST Action, take note. Base price is \$6.50 per issue, which includes a jam-packed disk. Postage is extra, so the more people are interested, the cheaper it will be.

Contact Chris Healy
775-9073

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Work Portland Computer and Office Systems show at the IB booth, mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

Contact Ivan Bendel
297-8425

**DONT FORGET THE
GENERAL MEETING ON
THE 7TH OF OCTOBER!!!**

UNUSED EQUIPMENT?

If you have any old software or hardware that you don't use anymore, think about donating it to the club. These items can be used at future Swap Meets to help raise money for the club, or even given away at a raffle

Contact David Hunt
Club President

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

WRITE ASK PAC
P.O BOX 1692
Beaverton, OR 97005

Technical Questions
Comments
Opinions
Whatever

**Place Your Ad Here!
Call 786-8215
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Norman Moore's
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J B Music &
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382-4554

USED COMPUTERS

1040ST• Mono System

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Mega 2• Mono System

\$675

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PAC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership includes Voting Rights, Club newsletter and Subscription to Atari Interface Magazine
Please fill out the following information, then forward with annual dues of \$25.00 to:

Portland Atari Club
Attn: Membership Secretary
PO Box 1692
Beaverton, OR 97005

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Model of Computer Owned:

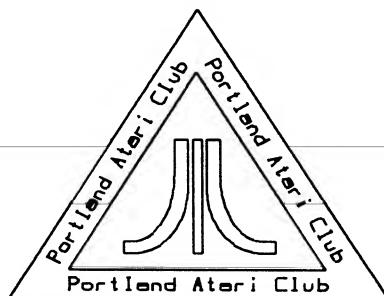
800XL 130XE 520ST 1040ST 520/1040STE

Mega ST Mega STE TT

Other _____

Renewal / New Member

If Renewal, How long have you been a member? _____





IB



Computers

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Games
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Typesetting

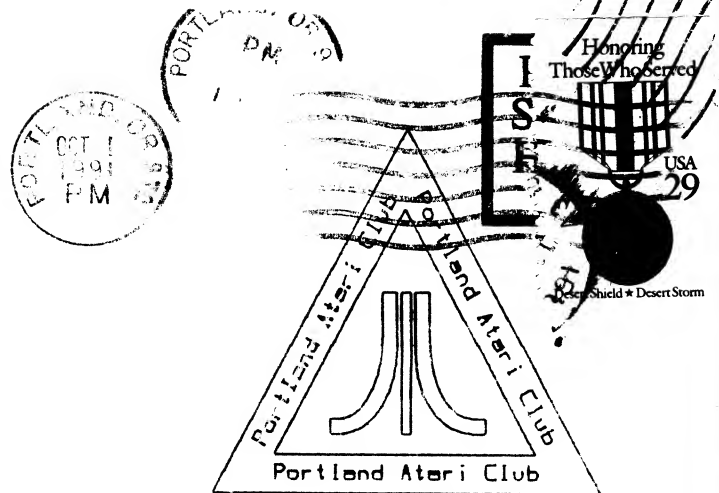
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